

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claim in the application.

Claims 1-10 (previously canceled)

Claim 11. (previously presented) A surgical procedure, comprising the steps of:
positioning an ink dispensing instrument having sterilized tattoo ink therein adjacent a patient;

releasing said tattoo ink through a port of said ink dispensing instrument and onto body tissue of a patient to selectively mark the body tissue to generally correspond to a target location for radiation therapy; and

dispensing said ink dispensing instrument after use on the patient.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A surgical ink dispensing instrument for facilitating surgical tattooing of a patient, which comprises:

an ink cartridge defining an enclosed internal chamber; and
sterile tattoo ink disposed within said enclosed internal chamber of said ink cartridge;

wherein said ink cartridge is substantially flexible to permit the operator to manually deform said ink cartridge by direct engagement of said ink cartridge with a hand of the operator to dispense said tattoo ink through said port.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The surgical instrument according to claim 12 wherein said ink cartridge [defining] defines a port in communication with said internal chamber.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The surgical instrument according to claim 13 including an enclosure for covering said port of said ink cartridge.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The surgical instrument according to claim 14 wherein said enclosure is releasably mounted to said ink cartridge.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The surgical instrument according to claim 15 wherein said enclosure is an end cap, said end cap being removably mounted to said ink cartridge adjacent said port.

Claim 17. (cancelled) The surgical instrument according to claim 12 wherein said ink cartridge is substantially flexible to permit the operator to manually deform said ink cartridge by direct engagement of said ink cartridge with a hand of the operator to dispense said tattoo ink through said port.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The surgical instrument according to claim 12 including a surgical needle mounted to said ink cartridge.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The surgical instrument according to claim 18 wherein said surgical needle defines a lumen in communication with said port of said ink cartridge.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A single use surgical ink dispensing instrument for facilitating surgical tattooing of a patient, which comprises:

[an] a flexible ink cartridge defining an internal chamber;
sterile tattoo ink disposed within said internal chamber of said ink cartridge; and
wherein, subsequent to dispensing said sterile tattoo ink on body tissue of a patient to mark the tissue for radiation therapy, said ink cartridge is discarded.

Claim 21. (new) The surgical procedure according to claim 11 further including the step of performing a radiation treatment on the patient adjacent the target location.

Claim 22. (new) The surgical procedure according to claim 11 wherein the step of dispensing is performed after a single use on the patient.